

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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**SENATE BILL 456
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 4/28/15
Third Edition Engrossed 4/29/15
PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S456-PCS15282-RQ-28**

Short Title: Modifications to Opportunity Scholarships.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
THAT CAN BE USED FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST
GRADE AT NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-562.2(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The Authority shall make available no later than February 1 annually applications to eligible students for the award of scholarship grants to attend any nonpublic school. Information about scholarship grants and the application process shall be made available on the Authority's Web site. Beginning March 15, the Authority shall begin awarding scholarship grants according to the following criteria:

- (1) First priority shall be given to eligible students who received a scholarship grant during the previous school year if those students have applied by March 1.
- (2) After scholarship grants have been awarded to prior recipients as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, scholarships shall be awarded with remaining funds as follows:
 - a. At least fifty percent (50%) of the remaining funds shall be used to award scholarship grants to eligible students residing in households with an income level not in excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program.
 - b. No more than ~~thirty-five~~forty-five percent (~~35%~~45%) of the remaining funds shall be used to award scholarship grants to eligible students entering either kindergarten or first grade.
 - c. Any remaining funds shall be used to award scholarship grants to all other eligible students."

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2015, and applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.



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